

PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARALLEL TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY...

Be sure to give both old and new addresses in order to change of postoffice.

We invite correspondence, news items, suggestions and criticisms on the subjects of agriculture, poultry raising, stock breeding, dairying, horticulture and gardening...

DISCONTINUANCES—Responsible subscribers will continue to receive this journal until the publishers are notified by letter to discontinue...

A THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

To live content with small means; to seek elegance rather than luxury, and refinement rather than fashion...

EDITORIAL NOTES

A sentence well worth remembering and pondering over is this, found in Hamilton W. Mabie's estimate of Dr. Lyman Abbott as given in the World's Work for February...

ERRATA

This issue is No. 1, Vol. 17, of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, not No. 52 of Vol. 16, as the printer's figures on page 1 have it.

In making up, columns 3 and 4 of page 4 were transposed, and a number of copies were printed before the error was discovered and corrected.

The Charlotte Observer has just completed its tenth year under the present editorial management. Its independent policy is "in harmony with the spirit of the times..."

HOME-MIXED FERTILIZERS

In his letter to the Charlotte Observer, re-published in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER last week, Mr. C. L. Evans suggested that we could serve our readers much better by publishing information helpful to farmers in the home-making and home-mixing of fertilizers...

Just now we ask attention to the letter of Dr. Kilgore on page 1, which contains information of interest to fertilizer buyers. Additional matter upon the same subject is contained in the Bulletins to which he refers...

COME TO THE GOOD ROADS CONVENTION.

The Good Roads Convention to be held in Raleigh Wednesday and Thursday of this week will doubtless be very largely attended. A very attractive programme of addresses has been arranged...

No one is more interested in the improvement of our roads than is the farmer, upon whom the mud tax falls most heavily, some times meaning the difference between profit and loss in the year's work.

Again let us say, we hope to see you in Raleigh at the State Good Roads Convention, Wednesday and Thursday, February 11th and 12th.

DAILY VS. WEEKLY PAPERS.

The views of Mr. D. L. Gore as to daily and weekly papers, as given in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER of last week, remind us of what Hon. Frank A. Vanderlip, formerly Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, says of the matter in the current issue of the Saturday Evening Post.

THE SHIP SUBSIDY STEAL.

While some of the vicious features of the original ship subsidy bill are perhaps omitted, the one now pending in Congress is no less pernicious and un-American in principle than that which was so deservedly unpopular last year.

By a strict party vote, Senator Frye's new ship subsidy bill has been favorably reported to the Senate. The measure differs from the one defeated last spring in the amount it appropriates, but not in the principle it involves.

the old that no ship shall receive a subsidy unless it carries on its outward voyage a cargo of one-third its tonnage. It is therefore in no degree an exporters' bill.

STATUS OF THE RURAL SCHOOL LIBRARY MOVEMENT.

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER has been from the first, as our readers know, an earnest advocate of the rural school library movement.

But it is worth repeating here that, until the appropriation is exhausted, six school libraries in each county are entitled to State aid under the plan which, you will remember, is this: The patrons or friends of a public school raise a sum of money, not less than \$10, for the purchase of a library to be established in connection with such school.

This brings us to the point: Inquiry at the office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction last Monday revealed the fact that 289 school libraries, representing 68 counties, have already received the State aid provided for.

We believe it will interest every reader of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER to know to which of these three classes his county belongs, and it may stir some of the slothful to more earnest action.

Table listing counties and their status regarding school libraries, including columns for counties like Alamance, Alexander, Alleghany, Anson, Ashe, Beaufort, Bertie, Bladen, Brunswick, Buncombe, Burke, Cabarrus, Caldwell, Camden, Carteret, Caswell, Catawba, Chatham, Cherokee, Chowan, Clay, Cleveland, Columbus, Craven, Cumberland, Currituck, Dare, Davidson, Davie, Duplin, Durham, Edgecombe, Forsyth, Franklin, Gaston, Gates, Graham, Granville, Greene, Guilford, Halifax, Harnett, Haywood, Henderson, Hertford, Hyde, Iredell, Jackson, Johnston, Jones, Lenoir, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, Martin, Mecklenburg, Mitchell, Montgomery, Moore, Nash, N. Hanover, Northampton, Onslow, Orange, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Pender, Perquimans, Person, Pitt, Polk, Randolph, Richmond, Robeson, Rockingham, Rowan, Rutherford, Sampson, Scotland, Stanly, Stokes, Surry, Swain, Tennessee, Tyrrell, Union, Vance, Wake, Warren, Washington, Watauga, Wayne, Wilkes, Wilson, Yadkin, and Yancey.

The Smithfield Herald reprints three times in its current issue this bit of healthy optimism from Harry Farmer's latest letter—and the thought is really worth repeating: "Do not look at that old field with distrust; it has made you some good crops, and is ready to do so again."

LARGE SALARIES FOR CABINET MEMBERS.

No one believes more strongly than we in economical government. But we do not approve of a "penny wise, pound foolish" policy.

Congress, we believe, acted wisely last week in increasing the salaries of Federal judges, and unwisely in voting down the amendment for an increase in the salary of cabinet officers.

Only last week Lyman J. Gage, who served as Secretary of the Treasury at the \$8,000 salary from March, 1897, till the 1st inst., was called to a \$100,000 position.

We should like to see Congress reconsider its action refusing to make the salary of cabinet members \$12,500 per year.

A Sampson county correspondent asks: "Where can I secure rape seed for pasture and about what is the price?"

THIS WEEK'S PAPER.

Mr. A. T. Olive gives sound and timely advice to tobacco growers. Such letters are always welcome; we wish we could give every reader a personal invitation to speak through our columns on any matter affecting the welfare of the farmers.

Another good letter of county farm news is that from Mr. R. C. Whiten, of Burke. Of course, the reader hasn't forgotten that we wish such letters from every county in the State.

Our Horticultural Department is unusually interesting. Grafting ought to be much more generally practiced, and we commend to all what Mr. L. W. Chambers has to say on the subject.

The problem of improving our county roads is one of the most important that now confront us, and we believe that many of our readers would be enabled to discuss it more intelligently by reading the new bulletin on "Earth Roads," to which reference is made on page 8.

One of the best of our series of poems is Goldsmith's description of the preacher and the schoolmaster of his "Deserted Village."

Cardinal Gibbons speaks upon a great question, and with no uncertain voice, in the article from his pen which we publish on page 4.

Mrs. Stevens furnishes another Nature Study article. The correct answers to her tree conundrums will appear next week.

"The Grumble Box" appears in the Children's Column, but you doubtless know some other people who should read it.

Dr. Stevens makes a very strong plea for the introduction of Nature Study into our schools. His address should not be overlooked by any teacher, and contains much matter of interest to the general reader.

Mr. S. M. Rowland's defense of the rural free delivery system is so well done that we find it unnecessary to publish a reply to "Ruralist" that we had written.

"The Alliance in Sampson is on a boom." So says a postscript to a letter just received from a farmer of that county, and we record his statement with pleasure.

The Thinkers.

SPARE THE BIRDS.

Mr. Kirk Munroe, of Florida, honorary vice-president of the Audubon Society of that State, makes the following strong plea for the birds, which we reproduce, because it applies with equal force to North Carolina and to every other Southern State:

"Florida is pre-eminently an agricultural State, and fruit raising is its chief industry. The hardest fight of the fruit grower is the horde of insects, aphides, ants, bugs, beetles, caterpillars, grasshoppers, flies and grubs that devote their entire energies not only to the destruction of his crop, but of his trees, which they attack in leaf bark, and root.

"I mean, of course, the birds, without which our fair State would quickly become not only non-productive, but absolutely uninhabitable.

"In our inconceivable folly, we of Florida never hesitate to kill a bird, if seized with an inclination to do so. A little gray-coated chap, flitting from tree to tree, in search of the insects that are sapping their life, offers a tempting mark, and we blaze away at him with a 22-rifle, just to see if we can hit him.

"A meadow lark, or each one of a covey of quail, in a ten acre tomato field earns ten dollars in a single season as an insect destroyer.

"We take every precaution to keep a thief from stealing even the most trifling of our possessions, and at the same time make no effort to dissuade the gunner from shooting the birds upon whose existence depends our very livelihood.

If there is any one who should appreciate the value of the birds as insect destroyers it is the farmer and fruit grower, and yet they do not seem to appreciate them any more than the boy with the sling or the pot hunter who goes out and takes a pop at everything with feathers on.

The central part of this State is a grain-growing and fruit-growing section and yet there are thousands of acres the hunting privilege on which is leased to Northern sportsmen, the consideration being that the lesors pay the taxes on the leased land.

THE POLL TAX RECEIPT.

As all citizens know, or ought to know, no person can vote in this State after the first day of May next who has failed to pay his taxes, poll tax included, for the year preceding the first of May prior to the day of election.

that the tax was paid on or before the first day of May preceding.

The Asheville Gazette makes a very important point in this connection in calling attention to the general rather than specific character of tax receipts now used, and expresses the doubt as to the value of such receipt to a voter when he goes to vote next November.

Table showing tax receipts for 1901 by county: Received of... as follows for the year 1901: State tax... County tax... Total... Tax Collector.

It will be noted that nothing is said above as to poll tax, nor does it show that the receipt is "in full of all taxes" due for 1901, which thus expressed would include the poll tax, though whether it would comply with the law as pertaining to suffrage qualifications may be doubted.

The taxes for 1901 are being paid now, and must certainly all be paid on or before the first day of May to entitle the citizen who may be a voter to vote next fall.

TEN YEARS AGO AND NOW.

There is no better antidote for despondency than to take a measure of your own community as it was ten years ago and as it is to-day—unless you live in an unrepresentative and stagnant community.

It is a custom in our schools to have readings weekly, or more often as the case may be, from standard literature. This is well, as the young mind cannot be too well acquainted with the standard works, but we believe that it would be a good idea and one entirely appropriate to substitute a good live newspaper occasionally.

As we said before, so say we again: Trust the people. Let the people of North Carolina have a chance to elect who they want for United States Senator. That will result, infallibly, in leaving at home some who ought not to go.